

My name is Pam Stuckey. I've been a Montgomery County resident in Kensington since 1989. I've been volunteering with migrants arriving in DC since they began arriving this past April. As someone with direct experience working with migrants, I can attest that they are settling in Montgomery County for the long-term. I ask that the Council vote yes for SA #23-17 with changes. Special Appropriation #23-17 emphasizes emergency funding, and while this is critical, it should also include services that help all migrants transition from short-term to long-term housing and settlement in the county. Support should be provided directly to migrants, including childcare vouchers, housing assistance and placement, along with social services such as case management, mental healthcare, and food security programs. Providing safe, affordable, and secure housing is one way to reduce mental health stressors caused by migration. It's also important to provide resources in areas that are easily accessible by public transportation. Govs. Abbott and Ducey both claimed that progressive cities would not support migrants despite their claims of inclusion; it is now up to the Council to demonstrate that migrants are welcome here by providing direct resources that support long-term settlement and integration into our community. Please consider these changes for this appropriation